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A BRIEF
CONSIDERATION
OF
NEW YORK
1753

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CONSIDERATION
OF NEW YORK

Heartman's Historical Series No. 39.

A BRIEF
CONSIDERATION
OF
NEW YORK

With Respect To Its
NATURAL ADVANTAGES
Its Superiority in Several Instances
Over Some of the
Neighboring Colonies
By WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Reprinted from
THE INDEPENDENT REFLECTOR
1753

EDITED BY
EARL GREGG SWEM
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

In Number 8 of "The Independent Reflector," Thursday, January 18, 1753, William Livingston printed the first instalment of "A Brief Consideration of New York, with respect to its Natural Advantages: Its Superiority in several Instances, over some of the Neighboring Colonies." The second and final instalment was printed in Number 52 of The Independent Reflector, November 22, 1753.⁽¹⁾ The author has presented his thought with such clearness and force, and with such prophetic vision, that these two numbers of the Reflector constitute a distinct contribution to the history of the development of New York City. The author did not write as a modern press agent, with all the paraphernalia of exaggeration, but as one who loved his native province, with a desire to proclaim its advantages modestly, and to offer some suggestions for its commercial improvement. The development of New York province and of its chief city into the Empire State and City fully confirm the opinions of William Livingston as expressed in these two numbers of the Reflector.

William Livingston, the editor and founder of "The Independent Reflector," was born at Albany, November

(1) This was the last number published of The Independent Reflector

30, 1723. He was the fifth child of Philip and Catharine Van Brugh Livingston. In 1737 he entered Yale College and graduated at the head of his class in 1741. In a short time thereafter he was entered as a law student in the office of James Alexander, the constant advocate of popular rights and privileges, and one of the most eminent lawyers in the province. In the trial of Zenger, in 1734, Alexander supported the cause of the printer with great ability. In 1748 Livingston had completed his preparation for the law and received his license. His character had already displayed originality and much independence. It was not strange then that he should establish "The Independent Reflector," the first number of which appeared on November 30, 1752. Mr. Theodore Sedgwick, his biographer, says "This was, I believe, the first periodical in the colonies, certainly in New York, which, with no professed attachment to any political party, devoted itself to a close and impartial scrutiny of the existing establishments, and pursuing its course without fear or favor, had for its object the exposure of official abuse, negligence, and corruption in whatever rank they were to be found."⁽²⁾ In the eleventh number of the work, when he had become somewhat excited by opposition, the author thus describes his purpose: "The Reflector is determined to proceed unawed and alike fearless of the humble scoundrel and the eminent villain. The cause he is engaged in is a glorious cause. 'Tis the cause of truth and liberty: what he intends to oppose is superstition and bigotry, priestcraft, tyranny, servitude,

(2) Sedgwick—Life of William Livingston, 1833. p. 74.

public mismanagement, and dishonesty in office. The things he proposes to teach are the nature and excellence of our Constitution, the inestimable value of liberty, the disastrous effects of bigotry, the shame and horror of bondage, the importance of religion unpolled and unadulterated with superstitious additions and inventions of priests. He should also rejoice to be instrumental in the improvement of commerce and husbandry."⁽³⁾ In the last sentence we find his reason for devoting two numbers of the Reflector to "A Brief Consideration of New York, with Respect to its natural Advantages." With a royal governor controlling political thought and an obsequious clergy representing the dominant church, the established Church of England, we may be sure that the path of such an outspoken and daring editor would be beset with difficulties. "The editor was defamed in private society and denounced from the pulpit. The mayor recommended the grand jury to present the work as a libel; the author was charged with profanity, irreligion and sedition, and his printer, alternately menaced and cajoled by the enemies of the paper, yielded at length to their efforts and refused to continue it."⁽⁴⁾ Livingston was especially bitter in his denunciation of the attempt to establish the new college⁽⁵⁾ by charter rather than by act of the legislature. His argument for the latter method was that this would permit a choice of college officials who would not be dominated by the clergy of the Established Church.

(3) Sedgwick p. 75.

(4) Sedgwick p. 76.

(5) Now Columbia University.

There were other contributors to the Reflector besides Livingston, their letters appearing under the names of "Shadrack Plebeianus," "Atticus," and "Philathes." Sedgwick affirms that Livingston's own pieces may be easily recognized by their editorial character, and by the use of certain letters for signatures. There can be no doubt that Livingston was the author of the subject matter of this reprint, "A brief Consideration of New York" for, at the end of the first instalment the editorial assumption of the authorship of it is unmistakable.

So great a reputation had the "Independent Reflector" established that there was an insistent demand for the republication of all the numbers. It was accordingly, republished, with a long preface by Mr. Livingston, in January, 1754.

Sedgwick says that the printers of Boston and Philadelphia, when approached for its republication, refused to have anything to do with it. The title page of the reprint bears the imprint "Printed (until tyrannically suppressed) in 1753."

The vigorous sentiments expressed in the "Independent Reflector" were influential in developing a liberal construction of the political and religious establishments prior to the revolution. This paper was widely read and quoted. President James Madison is authority for the statement that the subject matter of the Reflector was discussed frequently by the Princeton students of his day.

Livingston's career at the New York bar was eminently successful. In 1772, he retired to his country seat, Lib-

erty Hall, near Elizabethtown, N. J. From this time, he was closely identified with the political affairs of New Jersey, representing it in the first, second, and third Continental Congresses. He was chosen its first governor, and was reelected annually until his death, July 25, 1790. A comprehensive biography of William Livingston, written in the light of the manuscript and other source material now available, is much to be desired.

E. G. SWEM.

A brief Consideration of NEW-YORK, with respect
to its natural Advantages: Its Superiority in
several Instances, over some of the neigh-
boring Colonies.

O Fortunatos nimium Bona si sua norint Eboracos.
Virg.

Awake the Muse, bid Industry rejoice,
And the rough Sons of lowest Labour smile.
Thom. Brit.

WITH Respect to what Nature has done for
us, there is not a happier People in the
World, than the Inhabitants of this Pro-
vince. I hope the assigning a few Instances from
whence this Happiness is derived, will not be dis-
pleasing to them, as it tends to inflame them with a
Love of their Country, and at the same Time excite
their Gratitude for the Happiness they enjoy.

The Necessaries of Life, which for that Reason,
are its most substantial Blessings, we possess with

the richest Affluence. The natural Strength and Fertility of the Soil we live upon, will, by Grazing and Tillage, always continue to us, the inexhaustible Source of a profuse Abundance. There is nothing we possess, that Mankind can well be without, and scarce any Thing they really want, but we either enjoy, or may easily procure, in luxuriant Plenty.

Provisions, in short, are our Staple, and whatever Country sufficiently abounds with so necessary a Commodity, can never fail of Wealth, a sure Magazine! which will always be attended with Power and Plenty, and many other Springs of social Happiness, as its natural Concomitants. The Want of such an unfailing Staple, is a Fountain of Misery, to a Province on the East, of more Shew than Substance, Pomp and Riches. By constant Supplies from our Exuberance, we hold them in Debt, and annually increase it; while we are so happy, as to taste the Sweets of the Truth of what they have remarked, that there are fewer poor Men in this, than in any one of the Plantations on the Continent. I have, myself, spent a Month in their Metropolis, the most

splendid Town in North-America, not without some Pleasure, in reflecting, that I had not a Morsel of Bread, even at their common Tables, that was not the Produce of this Colony: Nor has the prettiest Beau in the Town, so easy an Access to their Ladies, as a certain Baker of ours, universally celebrated there, for the Goodness of his Biskets.

But this Opulence is not our only Advantage, for raising the Trade of this Province, and enlarging its Extent: Every Thing in it conspires to make New-York the best Mart on the Continent. Our Coasts are regular, and the Navigation up to the City, from the Sea, short and bold, and by a good Light-house, might be rendered safe and easy.

High-Roads, which in most trading Countries, are extremely expensive, and awake a continual Attention for their Reparation, demand from us, comparatively speaking, scarce any public Notice at all. The whole Province is contained in two narrow Oblongs, extending from the City East and North, having Water Carriage from the Extremity of One, and from the Distance of One Hundred and Sixty Miles

of the Other; and by the most accurate Calculation, has not, at a Medium, above Twelve Miles of Land Carriage throughout its whole Extent. This is one of the strongest Motives to the Settlement of a new Country, as it affords the easiest and most speedy Conveyance from the remotest Distances, and at the lowest Expence. The Effects of this Advantage are greater than we usually observe, and are, therefore not sufficiently admired.

The Province of Pennsylvania, has a fine Soil, and, thro' the Importation of Germans, abounds with Inhabitants; but being a vast inland Country, its Produce must, of Consequence, be brought to a Market over a great Extent of Ground, and all by Land-Carriage. Hence it is, that Philadelphia is crowded with Waggons, Carts, Horses, and their Drivers: A Stranger, at his first Entrance, would imagine it to be a Place of Traffic, beyond any one Town in the Colonies; while at New-York in particular, to which the Produce of the Country is all brought by Water, there is more Business, at least Business of Profit, tho' with less Shew and Appearance: Not a Boat in

our Rivers is navigated with more than two or three Men at most; and these are perpetually coming in from, and returning to, all Parts of the adjacent Country, in the same Employments, that fill the City of Philadelphia with some Hundreds of Men, who, in respect to the public Advantage, may justly be said, to be laboriously idle: For, let any one nicely compute the Expence of a Waggon, with its Tackling; the Time of two Men in attending it; their Maintenance; four Horses, and the Charge of their Provender, on a Journey of One, tho' they often come, Two Hundred Miles; and he will find, these several Particulars accumulate a Sum far from being inconsiderable. All this Time, the New-York Farmer is in the Course of his proper Business, and the unincumbered Acquisitions of his Calling; for, at a Medium, there is scarce a Farmer in the Province, that cannot transport the Fruits of a Year's Labour, from the best Farm, in three Days, at a proper Season, to some convenient Landing, where the Market will be to his Satisfaction, and all his Wants from the Merchant, cheaply supplied: Besides which, one Boat shall steal into the Harbour of New-York, with

a Lading of more Burden and value, than forty Wag-gons, One Hundred and Sixty Horses, and Eighty Men, into Philadelphia; and perhaps with less Noise, Bluster or Shew, than One.

Prodigious is the Advantage we have in this Article alone; I shall not enter into an abstruse Calculation, to evince the exact Value of it, in all the Lights in which it may be considered; thus much is certain, that barely on Account of our easy Carriage, the Profits of Farming with us, exceed those in Pennsylvania, at least by Thirty per Cent. and that Difference, in Favour of our Farmers, is of itself sufficient to enrich them; while the others find the Disadvantage they are exposed to, so heavy, (especially the remote Inhabitants of their Country) that a bare Subsistence is all they can reasonably hope to obtain. Take this Province throughout, the Expence of transporting a Bushel of Wheat, is but Two pence, for the Distance of One Hundred Miles; but the same Quantity, at the like Distance in Pennsylvania, will always exceed us One Shilling at least. The Proportion between us, in the Conveyance of every Thing else, is

nearly the same. How great, then, are the Incumbrances to which they are exposed! What an immense Charge is saved to us! How sensible must the Embarrassments they are subject to, be to a trading People!

There is Nothing more common, in Connecticut and the Massachusetts-Bay Colonies, in discoursing of their Provinces, than for Gentlemen to urge the great Number of their Towns, as a Proof of the Prosperity of their Country; whereas Nothing can be of more mischievous Consequence to all new Settlements. Sound Policy will teach them, that Husbandry calls for their first Attention; erecting Townships being never adviseable, till the Number of Planters can supply their Necessities; nor even then, are they to be encouraged, unless the Rise of Arts and useful Manufactures, render the reciprocal Aids of the Inhabitants indispensibly necessary. Every Town unemployed in these, is a dead Weight upon the Public; for when Families collect themselves into Townships, many Tracts of Land, must, of Consequence, lie unimproved: Besides, such Persons will

always endeavor to support themselves by Barter and Exchange; which can by no means augment the Riches of the Public. The same Commodity passing thro' never so many different Hands in one Community, tho' it may enrich an Individual, others must be poorer, in an exact proportion to his Gains; but the collective Body of the People not at all: Now, suppose, what really is true, that not a Town in those Provinces, of which there are not less than three Hundred, is, in the least Degree, supported by any kind of Manufacture whatsoever; how vast must be their Consumption! how incredible their Expence! how ruinous the Loss of their Time! and how difficult the Remedy! This Subject puts me in Mind of the Story a Gentleman in this Province told me, of his Tenant. James had to his Wife's Portion, a Barrel of Rum, upon the Strength of which he set up for a Tavarn-keeper; he purchased a Licence, and the married Couple settled it as an inviolable Rule, that not a Dram should be drawn, but for Cash upon the Nail:—A Dram was sold, and James had a Groat for it: The Day after, with that Groat, James purchased a Dram of Betty: It was not long, before

Betty's Qualms extorted the Groat for a Dram to relieve her; then James took the Money. The Cash kept a constant Circulation, till the Barrel was empty. The Application of this Story to the Provinces I have mentioned, is as easy, as to determine, whether James had increased his Wife's Portion, or not.

Another Consequence of their clustering into Towns, is Luxury;—a great and mighty Evil, carrying all before it, and crumbling States and Empires, into slow, but inevitable Ruin.—Like sweetened Poison, it is soft but strong, enervates the Constitution, and triumphs at last, in the Weakness and Rotteness of the Patient. It is almost impossible for a Number of People, and absolutely so, if they are idle, to live together, but they will very soon attempt to outvie each other, in Dress, Tables, and the like. This is the Case in the Massachusetts-Bay: Let a Man enter one of their Country Churches, and he will be struck with the Gaiety of Ladies, in Silks and Lawn; while, perhaps, the Houses they came out of, shall scarce afford a clean Chair to sit on.—Bos-

ton is their Pattern, and too, too closely imitated! I knew a Gentleman, that could tell his Distance from it, by the Length of the Ruffles of a Belle of the Town he was in; and perhaps it may deserve the serious Consideration, of their Society for the Promotion of Industry, and Employment of the Poor, whether the first Step they took, should not be, to dissipate their Towns, and multiply the Number of their Farms. I am sure, it would turn out in the End, a Scheme more to their Advantage, than peopling their Eastern Frontiers; tho' it had no other Effect, than to sink the Ballance we have against them in Trade; which, as some of their own Merchants, of Truth and Intelligence, have informed me, is not less than Forty Thousand Pounds per Annum, lawful Money of this Province.

Of the Inconveniences of too many Towns, we have, as yet, no Cause of Complaint. The Lands near New-York, and at a considerable Distance from it, were, in the Infancy of this Colony, taken up by a few Gentlemen in large Tracts; which, tho' it has been some Discouragement, to the Improvement of

the Lands within those Grants, has nevertheless had its Use; as, in Consequence thereof, our Settlements have been carried up Hudson's River, to the Extremes of the Province; and thereby made that, the Heart of the Colony, and the securest Retreat, which, at every Indian War, would otherwise have been, what our Northern Frontiers were the last, derelict and abandoned, or a miserable Aceldema and Field of Blood; but contains now, many Thousands of flourishing Farms; which are daily improving and increasing, as well to the Advancement of private Estates, as the publick Emolument.

Copious as this subject is, I shall beg Leave to resume it but once, in some future Paper, and in the mean Time, take this Opportunity to fulfil my Promise, by giving Place to a Letter from one of my most industrious Correspondents.

The Consideration of the Natural Advantages
of New York
Resumed and Concluded

Lo! swarming o'er the new discover'd World,
Gay Colonies extend; the Calm retreat
Of undeserv'd Distress, the better Home
Of those whom Bigots chase from foreign Lands:
Not built on Rapine, Servitude and War,
And, in their Turn some petty Tyrant's Prey;
But bound by social Freedom, firm they rise;
Of Britain's Empire the Support and Strength.

Thom. Lib.

THO' Boasting in general be a Foible worthy of Contempt, yet when our Country is the Subject, our warmest Commendations are, methinks, neither illaudable nor disgraceful. So early do we receive this patriot Passion, and so intimately are we concerned in that Object of our Affections, that the Praises we bestow upon the Place of our Nativity, tho' often repeated, justly admit of Apology, and even of Excuse. For my own Part, to dwell upon so interesting a Theme, affects me with singu-

lar Pleasure; and the Evidences which appear in my Papers of an unfeigned Regard to this Province, I esteem their greatest Ornament. My Countrymen at least can have no Reason to repine at the Continuation of this Subject. The Public Weal is my only Aim, and I flatter myself that the Display of our superior Advantages naturally tends to advance it. I proceed, therefore, according to my Promise, to resume the Detail, and make it the Subject of another Reflector.

With regard to our Situation in respect of foreign Markets, New-York is to be preferred to any of our Colonies. It lies in the Center of North-America, and is therefore most happily situated for supporting a Trade with all the Plantations from Georgia to Hallifax. Connecticut on the East, and New-Jersey on the West, are fertile and well cultivated Colonies, and thro' natural Necessity, must always contribute their Aids in rendering this City a plentiful Mart, because their Exports cannot with equal Ease and Safety be conveyed to any other Port of considerable Traffick. The Projection of Cape Cod into the

Ocean, renders the Navigation from Connecticut to Boston, at some Seasons, extremely perilous. Nor is it uncommon for their Coasters to be driven off the Cape, and obliged to winter in the West-Indies. But their Vicinity to us affords them a safe and easy Conveyance to New-York thro' the Sound. Philadelphia, indeed, joins New-Jersey on the West; but it is well worth remarking, that the Lands adjacent to the River Delaware, on the New-Jersey Shore, below Philadelphia, are unprofitable Barrens, and the River navigable but a few Miles above it; and that a voyage from the eastern Part of New-Jersey to Philadelphia, exposed to the open Sea on one side, and a hazardous Coast on the other, and then to a dangerous Navigation in Delaware, is a Circuit of not less than Three Hundred Miles; while four Rivers, rolling from the Heart of that Colony, disembogue within a few Miles of our City. And thus two Provinces, both capable of the highest Improvements, from their natural Situation conspire to aggrandize New-York, almost as effectually as if they were part of this Colony. Not one of the Provinces has a River so far navigable into the Country as ours;

whence it is that the Indian Trade from those vast Territories on the North, determines its Course to Albany, and thence down Hudson's River to New-York, as naturally as a Stream gliding in its proper Channel.

Our Harbour, or rather Road, is as safe as others generally are, most of them being subject to important Objections, and often indebted for their Security to very expensive Improvements of Art. The mooring Ground is good, free from Bars, and not incommoded by Rocks, the Water of an equal and convenient Depth, and the Shore bold to the very Edges; and but for floating Cakes of Ice in the Winter, our Shipping would be intirely exempted from Danger. Nor is it difficult perfectly to secure them from that Inconvenience. The Place called Rotten-Row, has hitherto been their only Assylum, tho' unhappily of late, it annually becomes less and less fit for that Purpose: The Scheme I propose to perpetuate, or rather increase its former Usefulness, is both simple and cheap. The whole Length of this Opening should be filled up to the Extent of One Hundred

Feet, and from each End of it a strong open Pier carried out into the River; between which, our Shipping will have all proper Security and the greatest Conveniency for lading, unlading, and careening, that can either be expected or desired. The free Passage of the Tides under the Bridges of the Piers, will always preserve a sufficient Depth of Water. The Part proposed to be filled up will be very spacious, and being at an equal Distance from the two Extremes of the Town, the fittest Place for erecting a large Market-House, very advantageous to the adjacent Inhabitants, as well as ornamental and convenient to the whole City. By this Alteration also, the putrid Stench, arising from that Sink of Corruption, so prejudicial to the Healths and Lives of the People, will be effectually prevented. The continual Evacuations of the Sewers at the Slip and Meal Markets, as well as the main Stream of the River, have already rendered Rotten-Row much shallower than it was, and will make it in Time, incapable of skreening our Ships from the Ice: But this Project will always protect them from that Hazard and Damage.

The City of New-York consists of about Two Thousand Five Hundred Buildings. It is a Mile in Length, and at a Medium not above half that in Breadth. On the South it forms a Point into a large Bay. The East Side lies on a Streight, which at eighteen or twenty Miles eastward, opens to the Sound. It adjoins to Hudson's River on the West; and such is its Figure, its Center of Business, and the Situation of its Buildings, that the Cartage in Town from one Part to another, does not at a Medium, exceed one Quarter of a Mile: The prodigious Advantage of which, to a trading City, is more easily conceived than expressed. It facilitates and expedites the lading and unlading of ships and Boats, saves Time and Labour, and is attended with unnumerable Conveniences to its Inhabitants.

The City of Philadelphia is situated along a fresh Water River, at the distance of near two hundred Miles from the Sea. The Navigation up to it is tedious, and as I said before, difficult and dangerous. During the Severity of Winter, it is locked up from all marine Correspondence with the rest of the

World, and thus, necessarily for several Months every Year, exposed to an almost total Stagnation of Trade. Numberless must be the Inconveniences resulting from this their melancholly Imprisonment—Commerce groans—a listless constrained Inactivity prevails, and an unprofitable Consumption devours the Fruit of their Labours, 'till the returning Spring takes off the Embargo, unlocks their River, and again opens the Theatre of Business and Profit. But the Trade of New-York boasts an Exemption from such Embarassments—No Season prevents our Ships from launching into the Ocean and pursuing their Traffick—The Depth of Winter scarce obstructs our Commerce, and during its greatest Severity, an equal unrestrained Activity runs thro' all Ranks, Orders and Employments. Even then our Merchants exult in the Return of their Ships, while our Neighbours of Philadelphia wait for Intelligences they are unable to improve, or concert Schemes which it is beyond their Power to execute.

Tho' we abound in no one Kind of Fish sufficient for a Staple, yet such is our Happiness in this Article,

that not one of the Colonies affords a Fish-Market of such a plentiful Variety as ours. Boston has none but Sea Fish, and of these Philadelphia is entirely destitute, being only furnished with the Fish of a fresh Water River. New-York is sufficiently supplied with both Sorts. Nor ought our vast plenty of Oysters to pass without particular Observation: in their Quality they are exceeded by those of no Country whatsoever. People of all Ranks amongst us, in general prefer them to any other Kind of Food. Nor is any Thing wanting, save a little of the Filings of Copper, to render them equally relishing even to an English Palate, with the best from Colchester. They continue good eight Months in the Year, and are, for two months longer, the daily Food of our Poor. Their Beds are within View of the Town, and I am informed, that an Oysterman industriously employed, may clear Eight or Ten Shillings a Day. Some Gentlemen a few Years ago were at the Pains of computing the Value of this Shellfish to our Province in general. The Estimate was made with Judgment and Accuracy, and their Computation amounted to Ten Thousand Pounds per Annum.

Their Increase and Consumption are since very much enhanced, and thus also their additional Value in Proportion. I confess it has often given me great Pleasure to reflect, how many of my poor Countrymen are comfortably supported by this Article, who without it could scarcely subsist, and for that Reason beg to be excused for the Length of this Reflection on so humble a Subject, tho' it might justly be urged to the Honour of our Oysters, that, considered in another View, they are serviceable both to our King and Country.

It is generally believed, that this Province abounds with a Variety of Minerals. Of Iron in particular we have such plenty, as to be exceeded by no Country in the World of equal Extent. It is a Metal of intrinsick Value beyond any other, and preferable to the purest Gold; the former is converted into numberless Forms for as many indispensable Uses, the latter for its Portableness and Scarcity is only fit for a Medium of Trade: But Iron is a Branch of it, and I am perswaded will, one Time or other, be one of the most valuable Articles of our Commerce. Our

annual Exports to Boston, Rhode-Island, and Connecticut, and since the late Act of Parliament, to England, are far from being inconsiderable. The Bodies of Iron Oar in the Northern Parts of this Province are so many, their Quality so good, and their Situation so convenient, in respect of Wood, Water, Hearth-Stone, proper Fluxes, and Carriage, for Furnaces, Bloomeries, and Forges, that with a little Attention we might very soon rival the Sweeds in the Produce of this Article. If any American Attempts in Iron Works have prov'd abortive, and disappointed their Undertakers, it is not to be imputed either to the Quality of the Oar, or a Defect of Conveniences. The Want of more Workmen, and the Villany of those we generally have, are the only Causes to which we must attribute such Miscarriages. No Man who has been concerned in them will disagree with me, if I assert, that from the Founder of the Furnace to the meanest Banksman or Jobber, they are usually low, profligate, drunken and faithless. And yet under all the innumerable Disadvantages of such Instruments, very large Estates have, in this way, been raised in some of our Colonies. Our

Success, therefore, in the Iron Manufactory, is obstructed and discouraged by the Want of Workmen, and the high Price of Labour, its necessary Consequence, and by these alone: But 'tis our Happiness that such only being the Cause, the Means of Redress are intirely in our own Hands. Nothing more is wanting to open a vast Fund of Riches to the Province, in this Branch of Trade, than the Importation of Foreigners. If our Merchants and landed Gentlemen, could be brought to a Coalition in this Design, their private Interests would not be better advanced by it, than the public Emolument; the latter in particular, would thereby vastly improve their Lands, increase the Number, and raise the Rents of their Tenants. And I cannot but think, that if those Gentlemen who are too inactive to engage in such an Enterprize, would only be at the pains of drawing up full Representations of their Advantages for Iron Works, and of publishing them from time to time in Great-Britain, Ireland, Germany and Sweden, the Province would soon be supplied, with a sufficient Number of capable Workmen in all the Branches of that Manufactory.

Of the Fertility of our Soil there needs no other Proof, than the vast Quantity of Flour and other Produce we annually export, by which alone we have been enabled to bear up under our late prodigious and expensive Importation of dry Goods from Europe. The Province is well watered, and abounds with Timber and other Materials for naval Stores, and is capable (as hath been said) to raise annually Forty Thousand Tons of Hemp. Whenever our Husbandmen are driven to a greater Attention to Agriculture than is necessary at present, it will be found that we are most happily supplied with a Variety of Manure, adapted to the different Genius of the Soil in various Parts of the Province. In those near the Sea, where the Ground is light and yielding, the Shore is cover'd with a Sea Weed, by which it may be exceedingly enriched. The Land along Hudson's River, is in general colder and tough, but Lime, which is its natural Cure, may be every where obtained: Hills of Lime-Stone being plentifully found on both Sides of the River.

I might inlarge this Detail, with the Enumeration

of many other Marks of the exuberant Bounty, and peculiar Favour of Providence to us, beyond any other Province on the Continent; but the Limits I have prescribed to my Papers forbid a more ample Display.

